United Nations A/55/207

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 116 (a)*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948, adopted and opened for signature, ratification or accession the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Convention entered into force on 12 January 1951 in accordance with its article XIII.

2. As at 1 July 2000, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 130 States. In addition, three States had signed the Convention. The list of States that have signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification, accession or succession, is contained in the annex to the present report.

* A/55/150.
** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 18 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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Annex

List of States that have signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as at 1 July 2000

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Afghanistan		22 March 1956 a/
Albania		12 May 1955 a/
Algeria		31 October 1963 a/
Antigua and Barbuda		25 October 1988 b/
Argentina		5 June 1956 a/
Armenia		23 June 1993 a/
Australia	11 December 1948	8 July 1949
Austria		19 March 1958 a/
Azerbaijan		16 August 1996 a/
Bahamas		5 August 1975 b/
Bahrain		27 March 1990 a/
Bangladesh		5 October 1998 a/
Barbados		14 January 1980 a/
Belarus	16 December 1949	11 August 1954
Belgium	12 December 1949	5 September 1951
Belize		10 March 1998 a/
Bolivia	11 December 1948	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1 September 1993 b/
Brazil	11 December 1948	18 April 1952
Bulgaria		21 July 1950 a/
Burkina Faso		14 September 1965 a/

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Burundi		6 January 1997 a/
Cambodia		14 October 1950 a/
Canada	28 November 1949	3 September 1952
Chile	11 December 1948	3 June 1953
China	20 July 1949	18 April 1983
Colombia	12 August 1949	27 October 1959
Costa Rica		14 October 1950 a/
Côte d'Ivoire		18 December 1995 a/
Croatia		12 October 1992 b/
Cuba	28 December 1949	4 March 1953
Cyprus		29 March 1982 a/
Czech Republic		22 February 1993 b/
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		31 January 1989 a/
Democratic Republic of the Congo		31 May 1962 b/
Denmark	28 September 1949	15 June 1951
Dominican Republic	11 December 1948	
Ecuador	11 December 1948	21 December 1949
Egypt	12 December 1948	8 February 1952
El Salvador	27 April 1949	28 September 1950
Estonia		21 October 1991
Ethiopia	11 December 1948	1 July 1949
Fiji		11 January 1973 b/
Finland		18 December 1959 a/
France	11 December 1948	14 October 1950
Gabon		21 January 1983 a/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Gambia		29 December 1978 a/
Georgia		11 October 1993 a/
Germany		24 November 1954 a/
Ghana		24 December 1958 a/
Greece	29 December 1949	8 December 1954
Guatemala	22 June 1949	13 January 1950
Haiti	11 December 1948	14 October 1950
Honduras	22 April 1949	5 March 1952
Hungary		7 January 1952 a/
Iceland	14 May 1949	29 August 1949
India	29 November 1949	27 August 1959
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	8 December 1949	14 August 1956
Iraq		20 January 1959 a/
Ireland		22 June 1976 a/
Israel	17 August 1949	9 March 1950
Italy		4 June 1952 a/
Jamaica		23 September 1968 a/
Jordan		3 April 1950 a/
Kazakhstan		26 August 1998 a/
Kuwait		7 March 1995 a/
Kyrgyzstan		5 September 1998 a/
Lao People's Democratic Republic		8 December 1950 a/
Latvia		14 April 1992 a/
Lebanon	30 December 1949	17 December 1953
Lesotho		29 November 1974 a/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Liberia	11 December 1948	9 June 1950
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989 a/
Liechtenstein		24 March 1994 a/
Lithuania		1 February 1996 a/
Luxembourg		7 October 1981 a/
Malaysia		20 December 1994 a/
Maldives		24 April 1984 a/
Mali		16 July 1974 a/
Mexico	14 December 1948	22 July 1952
Monaco		30 March 1950 a/
Mongolia		5 January 1967 a/
Morocco		24 January 1958 a/
Mozambique		18 April 1983 a/
Myanmar	30 December 1949	14 March 1956
Namibia		28 November 1994 a/
Nepal		17 January 1969 a/
Netherlands		20 June 1966 a/
New Zealand	25 November 1949	28 December 1978
Nicaragua		29 January 1952 a/
Norway	11 December 1948	22 July 1949
Pakistan	11 December 1948	12 October 1957
Panama	11 December 1948	11 January 1950
Papua New Guinea		27 January 1982 a/
Paraguay	11 December 1948	
Peru	11 December 1948	24 February 1960
Philippines	11 December 1948	7 July 1950

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Poland		14 November 1950 a/
Portugal		9 February 1999 a/
Republic of Korea		14 October 1950 a/
Republic of Moldova		26 January 1993 a/
Romania		2 November 1950 a/
Russian Federation	16 December 1949	3 May 1954
Rwanda		16 April 1975 a/
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		9 November 1981 a/
Saudi Arabia		13 July 1950 a/
Senegal		4 August 1983 a/
Seychelles		5 May 1992 a/
Singapore		18 August 1995 a/
Slovakia		28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia		6 July 1992 b/
South Africa		10 December 1998 a/
Spain		13 September 1968 a/
Sri Lanka		12 October 1950 a/
Sweden	30 December 1949	27 May 1952
Syrian Arab Republic		25 June 1955 a/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		18 January 1994 b/
Togo		24 May 1984 a/
Tonga		16 February 1972 a/
Tunisia		29 November 1956 a/
Turkey		31 July 1950 a/

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Uganda		14 November 1995 a/
Ukraine	16 December 1949	15 November 1954
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		30 January 1970 a/
United Republic of Tanzania		5 April 1984 a/
United States of America	11 December 1948	25 November 1988
Uruguay	11 December 1948	11 July 1967
Uzbekistan		**9 September 1999 a/**
Venezuela		12 July 1960 a/
Viet Nam		9 June 1981 a/
Yemen		6 April 1989 a/
Yugoslavia	11 December 1948	29 August 1950
Zimbabwe		13 May 1991 a/

a/ Accession.

b/ Succession.

United Nations A/55/208

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 116 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment contained in the annex to that resolution, and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 4 February 1985. In accordance with article 27 thereof, the Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987, on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

3. In its resolution 54/156 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly welcomed the work of the Committee against Torture and took note of its report;[1] urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority; invited all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States that were parties to the Convention and that had not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that had already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20; urged all States parties to the Convention to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible;[2] urged States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, in view of the high number of reports not submitted; called upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with her mandate established in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to

* A/55/150.

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 21 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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continue to provide, at the request of Governments, advisory services for the preparation of national reports to the Committee and for the prevention of torture, as well as technical assistance in the development, production and distribution of teaching material for this purpose; urged States parties to take fully into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee after its consideration of their reports; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention.

4. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-sixth session, adopted resolution 2000/43, on 20 April 2000, in which it called upon all Governments to implement fully the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; urged all Governments to promote the speedy and full implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23) and, in particular, of part II, section B.5, relating to freedom from torture, in which it is stated that States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights such as torture and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law. The Commission also called upon all Governments, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to commemorate the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June this year with particular emphasis on reparation for torture victims; encouraged States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention; and also encouraged States parties to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the Convention against Torture with a view to withdrawing them.

5. As at 1 July 2000, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 119 States. In addition, 9 States had signed the Convention. The list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, is contained in the annex to the present report.

6. As at the same date, 41 of the States parties to the Convention, namely Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, had made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention. In addition, three States parties — namely, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — had made the declaration provided for in article 21 only, thus bringing the total number of declarations under that article to 43. Under article 21, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Under article 22, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who

claim to be victims of a violation by a State party of the provisions of the Convention.

7. The provisions of articles 21 and 22 entered into force on 26 June 1987 in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 21 and paragraph 8 of article 22.

8. The 7th meeting of the States parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 24 November 1999 to elect five members of the Committee against Torture to replace those whose terms of office were due to expire on 31 December 1999. The membership of the Committee for 2000 is as follows:

Name of the member	*Term expires on 31 December*
Mr. Peter Thomas **Burns** (Canada)	2003
Mr. Buibril **Camara** (Senegal)	2003
Mr. Sayed Kassem **El Masry** (Egypt)	2001
Ms. Felice **Gaer** (United States of America)	2003
Mr. Alejandro **González Poblete** (Chile)	2003
Mr. Andreas **Mavrommatis** (Cyprus)	2003
Mr. António **Silva Henriques Gaspar** (Portugal)	2001
Mr. Ole **Vedel Rasmussen** (Denmark)	2001
Mr. Alexander M. **Yakovlev** (Russian Federation)	2001
Mr. **Yu** Mengjia (China)	2001

9. The Committee against Torture held its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 8 to 19 November 1999, and from 1 to 19 May 2000, respectively. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee will submit its annual report,[3] covering its activities at the sessions referred to above, to the States parties and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/54/44).

[2] Adopted by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on 9 September 1992 in accordance with article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention (CAT/SP/SR.4) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/55/44).

Annex

List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as at 1 July 2000

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Afghanistan	4 February 1985	1 April 1987
Albania		11 May 1994[b]
Algeria[a]	26 November 1985	12 September 1989
Antigua and Barbuda		19 July 1993[b]
Argentina[a]	4 February 1985	24 September 1986
Armenia		13 September 1993[b]
Australia[a]	10 December 1985	8 August 1989
Austria[a]	14 March 1985	29 July 1987
Azerbaijan		16 August 1996[b]
Bahrain		6 March 1998[b]
Bangladesh		5 October 1998[b]
Belarus	19 December 1985	13 March 1987
Belgium[a]	4 February 1985	25 June 1999
Belize		17 March 1986[b]
Benin		12 March 1992[b]
Bolivia	4 February 1985	12 April 1999
Bosnia and Herzegovina		6 March 1992[c]
Brazil	23 September 1985	28 September 1989
Bulgaria[a]	10 June 1986	16 December 1986
Burkina Faso		4 January 1999[b]
Burundi		18 February 1993[b]
Cambodia		15 October 1992[b]
Cameroon		19 December 1986[b]
Canada[a]	23 August 1985	24 June 1987
Cape Verde		4 June 1992[b]
Chad		9 June 1995[b]
Chile	23 September 1987	30 September 1988
China	12 December 1986	4 October 1988

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Colombia	10 April 1985	8 December 1987
Costa Rica	4 February 1985	11 November 1993
Côte d'Ivoire		18 December 1995[b]
Croatia[a]		8 October 1991[c]
Cuba	27 January 1986	17 May 1995
Cyprus[a]	9 October 1985	18 July 1991
Czech Republic[a]		1 January 1993[c]
Democratic Republic of the Congo		18 March 1996[b]
Denmark[a]	4 February 1985	27 May 1987
Dominican Republic	4 February 1985	
Ecuador[a]	4 February 1985	30 March 1988
Egypt		25 June 1986[b]
El Salvador		17 June 1996[b]
Estonia		21 October 1991[b]
Ethiopia		14 March 1994[b]
Finland[a]	4 February 1985	30 August 1989
France[a]	4 February 1985	18 February 1986
Gabon	21 January 1986	
Gambia	23 October 1985	
Georgia		26 October 1994[b]
Germany	13 October 1986	1 October 1990
Greece[a]	4 February 1985	6 October 1988
Guatemala		5 January 1990[b]
Guinea	30 May 1986	10 October 1989
Guyana	25 January 1988	19 May 1988
Honduras		5 December 1996[b]
Hungary[a]	28 November 1986	15 April 1987
Iceland[a]	4 February 1985	23 October 1996
India	14 October 1997	
Indonesia	23 October 1985	28 October 1998
Ireland	28 September 1992	
Israel	22 October 1986	3 October 1991

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Italy[a]	4 February 1985	12 January 1989
Japan[d]		29 June 1999[b]
Jordan		13 November 1991[b]
Kazakhstan		26 August 1998[b]
Kenya		21 February 1997[b]
Kuwait		8 March 1996[b]
Kyrgyzstan		5 September 1997[b]
Latvia		14 April 1992[b]
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989[b]
Liechtenstein[a]	27 June 1985	2 November 1990
Lithuania		1 February 1996[b]
Luxembourg[a]	22 February 1985	29 September 1987
Malawi		11 June 1996[b]
Mali		26 February 1999[b]
Malta[a]		13 September 1990[b]
Mauritius		9 December 1992[b]
Mexico	18 March 1985	23 January 1986
Monaco[a]		6 December 1991[b]
Morocco	8 January 1986	21 June 1993
Mozambique		14 September 1999[b]
Namibia		28 November 1994[b]
Nepal		14 May 1991[b]
Netherlands[a]	4 February 1985	21 December 1988
New Zealand[a]	14 January 1986	10 December 1989
Nicaragua	15 April 1985	
Niger		5 October 1998
Nigeria	28 July 1988	
Norway[a]	4 February 1985	9 July 1986
Panama	22 February 1985	24 August 1987
Paraguay	23 October 1989	12 March 1990
Peru	29 May 1985	7 July 1988
Philippines		18 June 1986[b]
Poland[a]	13 January 1986	26 July 1989

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Portugal[a]	4 February 1985	9 February 1989
Qatar		11 January 2000[b]
Republic of Korea		9 January 1995[b]
Republic of Moldova		28 November 1995[b]
Romania		18 December 1990[b]
Russian Federation[a]	10 December 1985	3 March 1987
Saudi Arabia		22 September 1997[b]
Senegal[a]	4 February 1985	21 August 1986
Seychelles		5 May 1992[b]
Sierra Leone	18 March 1985	
Slovakia[a]		29 May 1993[c]
Slovenia[a]		16 July 1993[b]
Somalia		24 January 1990[b]
South Africa[a]	29 January 1993	10 December 1998
Spain[a]	4 February 1985	21 October 1997
Sri Lanka		3 January 1994[b]
Sudan	4 June 1986	
Sweden[a]	4 February 1985	8 January 1986
Switzerland[a]	4 February 1985	2 December 1986
Tajikistan		11 January 1995[b]
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		12 December 1994[c]
Togo[a]	25 March 1987	18 November 1987
Tunisia[a]	26 August 1987	23 September 1988
Turkey[a]	25 January 1988	2 August 1988
Turkmenistan		25 June 1999
Uganda		3 November 1986[b]
Ukraine	27 February 1986	24 February 1987
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[d]	15 March 1985	8 December 1988
United States of America[d]	18 April 1988	21 October 1994
Uruguay[a]	4 February 1985	24 October 1986
Uzbekistan		28 September 1995[b]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Venezuela[a]	15 February 1985	29 July 1991
Yemen		5 November 1991[b]
Yugoslavia[a]	18 April 1989	10 September 1991
Zambia		7 October 1998[b]

[a] Made the declaration under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.
[b] Accession.
[c] Succession.
[d] Made the declaration under article 21 of the Convention.